

REMARKS

Claims 23, 35, 39, 40, 42 and 44 have been amended to recite that the extent of deterioration and the performance are determined by calculating a denitration ratio (η) according to the presently claimed equation (2). Support for amended Claims 23, 35, 39, 40, 42 and 44 can be found at, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 18 and 19. Claim 23 has been further amended to more clearly define the processes to be performed. Claim 24 has been amended to recite that regeneration consists of (a) reversing the gas flow direction, (b) washing with water, (c) removing with chemicals, (d) scraping the catalyst surface or (e) re-impregnation. Support for amended Claim 24 can be found at, for example, pages 31 and 32 of the present specification. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 23-44 are pending.

Response to Claim Rejections Under §112

(1) Claims 23-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as assertedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 23, 35, 39, 40, 42 and 44 have been amended to recite that that the extent of deterioration is determined by calculating a denitration ratio (η) according to the presently claimed equation (2). Thus, Claims 23, 35, 39, 40, 42 and 44 more clearly comply with the enablement requirement. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(2) Claims 23-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as assertedly failing to meet the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse.

At paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that, in the case of just one catalyst ('one or more catalysts') it means that the mixture of NH_3 and NO_x gases does not pass

over the catalyst. Thus, the Examiner takes the position that the efficiency of the catalyst cannot be measured.

Applicants disagree.

According to the present claims, $[\text{NH}_3]$ and $[\text{NO}_x]$ are measured at an inlet and an outlet of each denitration catalyst. Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner on August 3, 2010 to discuss the present rejection. The Examiner agreed to reconsider her position.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(3) Claims 23-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as assertedly being indefinite.

(i) According to the Examiner, it is unclear as to how the last step in Claim 23 is performed.

Claim 23 has been amended to more clearly define which process is to be performed, thereby more clearly complying with the requirements of §112. Accordingly, withdrawal of this aspect of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(ii) Regarding Claim 24, the Examiner asserts that it is not apparent what Applicants mean by "plurality of ways of regeneration."

Claim 24 has been amended to recite that regeneration consists of (a) reversing the gas flow direction, (b) washing with water, (c) removing with chemicals, (d) scraping the catalyst surface, or (e) re-impregnation. Accordingly, withdrawal of this aspect of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(iii) Regarding Claim 25, the Examiner asserts that it is not clear whether the “replacing catalyst should have better performance.”

Applicants disagree.

Claim 25 recites that the replacing catalyst has been regenerated. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the replacing catalyst should have better performance. Moreover, Applicants submit that it would be self-evident that the replacement catalyst would perform better; otherwise there would be no point in making the replacement. Accordingly, withdrawal of this aspect of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(iv) Regarding Claims 30, 31 and 35, the claims no longer recite altering the shape, thus, the Examiner’s position is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this aspect of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(v) Regarding Claims 40-41, the Examiner asserts that it is unclear what is meant by (a) a receiving unit, (b) a storage unit, an (c) a determining unit.

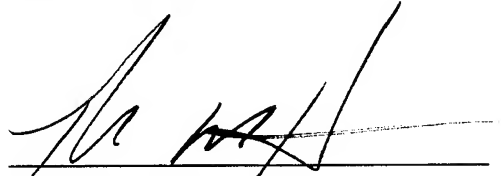
Applicants disagree.

Applicants discuss these units at, e.g., pages 22-24 in the specification. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would understand what is meant by is meant by (a) a receiving unit, (b) a storage unit, an (c) a determining unit. Accordingly, withdrawal of this aspect of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas M. Hunter', is written over a horizontal line.

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